

Salmon Recovery Briefing: November 9th 2-3pm

In 2007 the legislature established the Partnership and in doing so also determined that the Partnership would assume the functions of the regional salmon organization. Shared Strategy for Puget Sound currently performs these functions and will officially transfer these responsibilities to the Partnership on January 1, 2008.

Shared Strategy for Puget Sound is both a non-profit and a collaborative process. The non-profit will cease to exist as of December 31st 2007 and the collaborative process will continue to be supported by the Partnership. The Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (Recovery Council) is a forum of 29 members responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Salmon Recovery Plan adopted by NOAA Fisheries in 2007. NOAA Fisheries will also track the progress of implementation as required under the Endangered Species Act and will determine when recovery goals within the plan have been achieved. The Recovery Council is comprised of a representative from each of the 15 salmon recovery planning areas (watersheds) as well as tribal, state, federal governments and business and environmental representatives.

The federally adopted Salmon Recovery plan can be a key foundational piece for the Partnership's Action Agenda because:

- It has measurable goals for each listed salmon population established by the co-manager and NOAA Fisheries and adopted by Shared Strategy partners;
- It is based on local efforts within each watershed that prioritized actions and strategies to achieve the goals for their salmon populations;
- It was based on the best available science; and
- It was designed to restore salmon runs by addressing ecosystem processes and biodiversity benefits.

The recovery plan is currently being implemented through the efforts of several hundred project sponsors, 15 watershed groups including Lead Entities, and the Recovery Council. The Recovery Council is offering to serve as direct advisors to the Leadership Council on salmon recovery issues and to continue to bridge local and regional efforts. The Recovery Council will need the support of the Partnership to reach their near-term goals and set the trajectory to reach the long-term goal of salmon recovery in 50 years.

In the next two years the Recovery Council is focused on:

- Overseeing and supporting the implementation of the capital and programmatic components of the recovery plan including:
 - Constructing projects and protecting properties to increase the habitats and functions of Puget Sound estuaries, floodplains and riparian areas;
 - Changing, where necessary, harvest, habitat and hatchery management to be consistent with each other and achieve recovery goals; and
 - Improving the certainty that protection efforts deliver results.
- Formulating and advocating for a biennium budget to meet 5 year protection and restoration goals;

- Establishing and using a monitoring and adaptive management structure that bridges local and regional decision-making and increases the level of accountability of the region in achieving salmon recovery; and
- Integrating salmon recovery program with the Action Agenda.

The briefing and discussion will focus on transition issues, near-term tasks and responsibilities of the Partnership, Leadership Council and Recovery Council.